

SUPPLEMENTAL ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

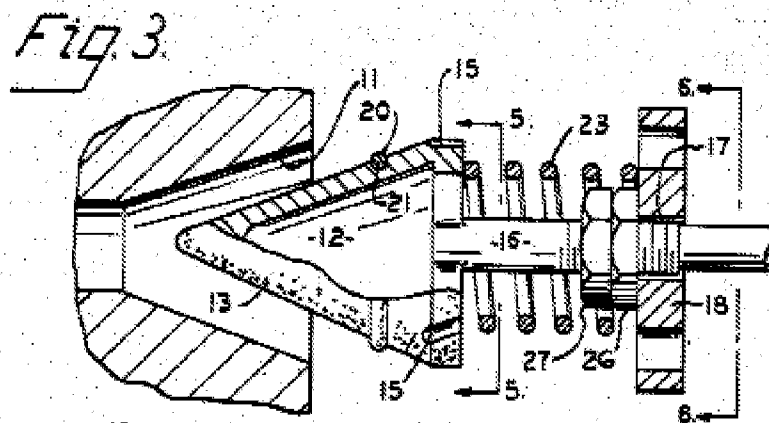
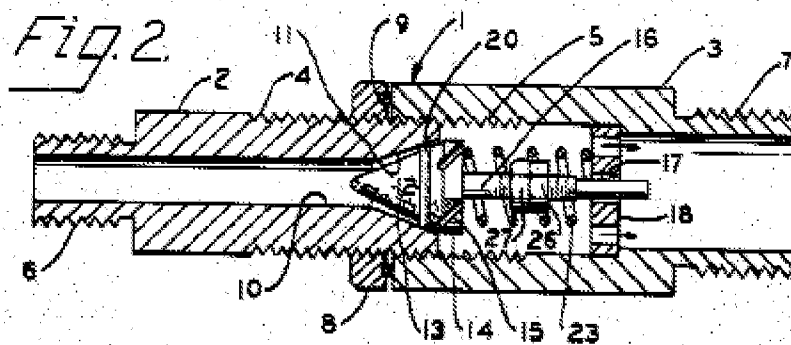
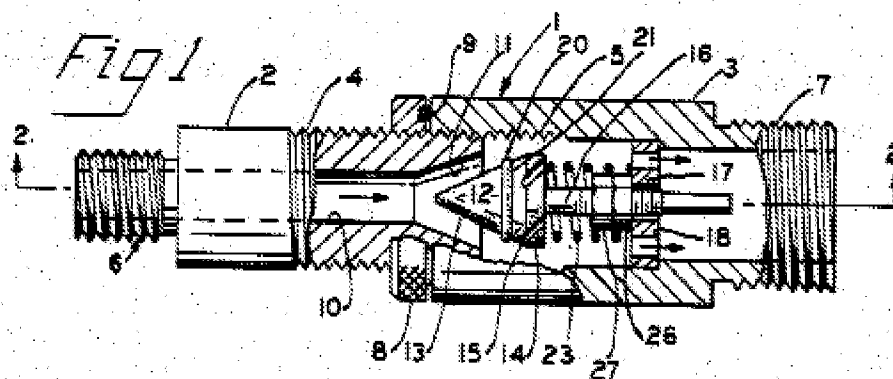
1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1, 2, 3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Hengesbach (US Patent 3756273).



3. Regarding claim 1, Hengesbach discloses (fig 1) a valve housing 1 with an interior fluid passage along its axis, a seat element 2 with valve seat 11a detent element 16 movable against a spring 23 wherein the valve seat can be adjusted axially to adjust the closing force of the spring.

4. Regarding claim 2, Hengesbach discloses a displacement device 9 actuatable from exterior of the valve for axial adjustment of the valve seat.

5. Regarding claim 3, Hengesbach discloses seat element 2 which is axially movable in the housing 1 and therefore can be described as a piston and is coaxial with the interior passage.

6. Regarding claim 8 a guide element 17 with fluid passages 18 which guide the valve head 12 in axial displacement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hengesbach (US Patent 3756273) in view of Mack (US Patent 6997208).



9. Regarding claim 9, Hengesbach discloses a guide pin 16 which is attached to the valve head therefore the valve head is not moveable with respect to the guide pin. Mack (fig 1) teaches a guide pin 11 which is fixed and the valve body 12 slides axially on the guide pin. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have substituted the valve guide arrangement of Hengesbach with that of Mack as an alternate method known in the art. The claim would have been obvious because a person of ordinary skill has good reason to pursue the known options within his or her technical grasp.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claim 4-7, 10 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

11. Regarding claim 4, the prior art fails to disclose a method adjusting and locking in place the valve seat externally by means of control pin and axial slots in the valve housing. Claims 5-7, 10 and 11 would be allowable because being dependent on claim 2.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Atif H. Chaudry whose telephone number is 571-270-3768. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, Alternate Friday off 9-5 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Isabella can be reached on 571-272-4749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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